



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
September 23, 2010

Contact: Jodie Tabak
(414)286-8504

BARRETT DELIVERS 2011 BUDGET TO COMMON COUNCIL

Budget holds the line on taxes and borrowing

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett delivered his 2011 budget for the City of Milwaukee this morning to the Common Council. The Mayor's budget keeps the property tax levy stable and keeps the levy-supported borrowing at the same level it was in 2004, the year Barrett took office.

In introducing his budget, Mayor Barrett referred to the difficult City budget of last year. "We would not have been able to do this if we had not made the difficult decisions last year," Mayor Barrett said in referencing the \$49 million pension contribution and more than \$31 million in operating budget cuts of last year. "My 2011 budget maintains priority services our residents deserve and expect and makes substantial investments in infrastructure"

Highlights from Mayor Barrett's proposed 2011 budget include:

- \$17.35 million voluntary contribution to the Employer's Pension Reserve to reduce the potentially destabilizing impact that pension funding could have on future budgets.
- 10 hours of additional public service time per week at four Milwaukee Public Libraries.
- Plans to implement a vacancy control program that will begin in the 4th quarter of 2010 and to allow for future sustainability the City's net reserve use is proposed to be \$7 million less than in 2010.
- A full year of federal COPS grant funding for the Milwaukee Police Department which will enable this year's police recruit class to hit the streets in early 2011.
- Imposing four mandatory furlough days for all City employees except for the Police and Fire Departments.

- \$14.3 million of infiltration and inflow reduction projects, including a \$2.8 million MMSD grant, to reduce the amount of rainwater that enters the sanitary sewer system.
- \$14.3 million in capital funding for local streets that should allow for the repaving and reconstruction of almost 15 miles of street and will also produce a 61-year replacement cycle (a significant improvement from the 160-year cycle reported by the City comptroller in 2008).
- The initial steps of moving to a volume based pay-as-you-throw solid waste collection system that will reduce the tonnage of solid waste and increase revenues from recycling.

The Mayor's proposed budget also includes a plan to process foreclosures on tax-delinquent properties on quarterly basis rather than the current once-yearly approach. This goal of this effort is to better protect individual houses and the neighborhoods where they are located. Mayor Barrett's budget increases the expenditures for maintaining city-owned foreclosed homes, establishes a new fund to start repairs on city-owned homes and increases the amount of funds for managing and marketing city-owned properties.

The Mayor's proposed budget will now go before the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Common Council where hearings on individual items will occur throughout the month of October. The Common Council will adopt the budget on Friday, November 5th.